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Utah

S Coming
Husband

beeps was coming over the room and the guard could locate the source.

usan VanHooser recognized the pattern of beeps as an alarm — and figured the elevator was the only place in building that such a code could be sent.

gden firefighters found Hooser in the elevator. Hatch in the roof of the elevator car was removed and a ladder lowered so he could climb out.

VanHooser was out Monday and his wife declined to comment, but he said it had been particularly fortunate for their boss.

He is a man who does not waste time," one said. "10 hours in there must have left him very unhappy."

Judge OKs Kennecott Cleanup Pact

By Jim Woolf
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

A federal judge approved an agreement Monday requiring Kennecott to compensate the state for polluted groundwater near its mine in western Salt Lake County.

U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Greene signed off on the deal that requires Kennecott to provide the Utah Department of Environmental Quality with \$9 million in cash to begin the process of cleaning up or replacing the contaminated water. Kennecott also will submit a \$28 million irrevocable letter of credit that can be used to finish the work.

In addition, Kennecott agrees to continue a costly program to eliminate all additional sources of groundwater pollution from its operation and stop the spread of the existing plume of contaminated water.

"We're very pleased to get this one behind us," said Preston Chiaro, vice president for technical services at Kennecott. "We prefer not to spend money on attorneys."

"This is good for the environment and good for the citizens of this state," said Dianne R. Nielson, director of the Department of Environmental Quality. "We are exceptionally pleased that the judge was willing to rule so promptly."

Greene in 1991 blocked a proposed agree-

ment under which Kennecott would have paid only \$12 million compensation. He wanted more money for the state and stronger assurances that the sources of pollution would be controlled. This new agreement satisfied those concerns.

State and federal experts have calculated that more than a century of mining in Bingham Canyon has resulted in the contamination of 7,000-acre-feet of groundwater in western Salt Lake County. That's enough to meet the annual needs of about 35,000 people.

The money being pledged by Kennecott is enough to pump that polluted water from the ground, treat it to drinking-water standards, and deliver it to consumers. This is the most expensive of the cleanup alternatives that have been considered.

If Kennecott receives state approval for a cheaper way to replace the 7,000 acre-feet of water while still cleaning up the plume of contaminated water, it can keep whatever is left of its \$28 million letter of credit.

The precise cleanup method will not be determined until a detailed hydrologic and engineering study is completed in about 2½ years.

Nielson said an acceptable solution must include the delivery of 7,000 acre-feet of municipal-quality drinking water and measures to

prevent the spread of the existing plume of contaminated water.

"We don't want them just taking state's water from someplace else and giving it back to us. They also have to be doing something that meets the federal criteria of 'restoring, replacing or acquiring' the damaged resource," she said.

As part of this agreement, Kennecott has pledged to within two years begin pumping highly contaminated water from the ground near the mouth of Bingham Canyon for use in the company's operations. This \$14 million project will start the cleanup process and also should slow the movement of the plume of polluted water. Some of this pumped water eventually may be treated and turned over to water distributors.

Two of the main sources of groundwater pollution have been the terraced piles of dirt and rock — known as over-burden — that line the east face of the Oquirrh Mountains between Bingham and Butterfield canyons, and unlined reservoirs used to store Kennecott's processed water.

The copper company has spent \$135 million in the past several years to cut off the pollution from these areas. It will cost another \$28 million to finish this part of the project.

Teen Crash Victim

Says: 'I Don't

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